



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
May 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the Long Lake City Council attended the meeting telephonically pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann (arrived at 5:08 pm), Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Attorney: John Thames; City Engineer: Alex Mollenkamp; and Public Works Director: Sean Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Brian Bourassa, Vice President at WSB, explained that he works behind the scenes with the City's consultants, Alex Mollenkamp and Hannah Rybak. He indicated that he wanted to update the Council regarding an issue that arose related to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan that was submitted on April 23, 2021. He commented that WSB has worked with the City for about 10 years now and noted that they had some staff turnover in the planning area and admitted that they did not handle it very well. He apologized to the City for that and stated that since it has been brought to their attention, they have taken care of the edits that needed to be made in order to submit a good, quality plan for the City. He recalled that the original approved amount for the work when the project was authorized was \$27,900, and what he and City Engineer Mollenkamp worked out and communicated to City Administrator Weske is that they want to own their actions and have decided to write-off \$800 so there will be no further billings to the City with respect to this project. He further added that as comments come back from the Metropolitan Council on the Comprehensive Plan document, WSB will be owning any edits or required modifications.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review Draft Master Sewer and Water Service Agreement

City Administrator Weske introduced and provided rationale behind the draft Master Sewer and Water Service agreement. He explained that the idea is to clean up the multiple agreements through creation and implementation of one master agreement; baseline everything that there is versus what was approved; and to start treating Orono connections as a commercial customer and not a resident. He reviewed the exhibits that were included in the packet.

Council member Kvale inquired what the asterisks denoted on Exhibit A.

Weske responded that the asterisks indicate City owned parcels.

Council member Dyvik asked if the plan was to have a meter installed where the watermain connects to Orono and bill based upon metered flows, letting Orono decide how they will divvy that charge up among the residents.

Weske confirmed that was correct and the plan would be to place the meter on the eight or 10 inch main.

Council member Dyvik questioned how the City would bill the sewer when the property owner has a well.

Weske indicated that his assumption is that they could go back and see what the baseline is to do so.

Mayor Miner asked if Orono was aware of the plan to meter on the City side of things.

Weske replied that he believes they have included about eight sewer meters in their CIP. He suggested that they likely know it is going to be coming, but are unaware of the details at this time.

Mayor Miner inquired where there were any "best practices" to be followed for a situation when one City provides services to another City.

Weske stated that agreements between entities differ. He reiterated that his goal is to achieve one agreement between the cities rather than numerous differing agreements.

Council and staff discussed past conversations with Orono, the hope to get this issue taken care of prior to the Fire Department conversations, the existing and future planned connections, capacity issues, and the possible discrepancy between what the City is charging Orono and what Orono is turning around and charging their residents.

Mayor Miner asked what the next steps are in this process.

Weske requested that the Council read through the agreement and provide staff with feedback if there are areas that need clarification or are of concern. He stated that he and City Attorney Thames, City Engineer Mollenkamp, and Public Works Director Diercks will review the maps and make sure they are updated, and that the verbiage in the agreement flows the best it can. He commented that the next step would be to prepare for sending a presentable document to Orono in rough draft form.

Council member Kvale pointed out that the draft agreement states that either party can terminate with a two-year notice period; however the City cannot terminate unless there is another opportunity or the City is at capacity. She questioned if that meant that the City would even terminate those included in Exhibit A with notice, if the City is at capacity.

City Attorney Thames explained that if the City is beyond its capacity, there has to be an ability to immediately address that. He stated that the most likely scenario is that there would be some supplemental work done to adjust the capacity issue in the short term.

Council member Kvale inquired how the City tracks capacity.

Thames responded that with every new connection there is an analysis on capacity.

Council member Dyvik asked what would happen if Orono was not willing to accept the City's terms.

Weske replied that it would fall back on the current agreements and noted that there is a fee schedule that talks about unmetered connections which could be adjusted and increased from the current \$80 within the current contracts.

Thames noted that the long-term viability of the system is important to both Long Lake and Orono because everybody will lose if it isn't viable.

Council member Dyvik commented that he does not like that Orono may be profiting off of every resident that Long Lake services.

Brian Bourassa, WSB, added that WSB would be happy to help with any type of research the City may need in addressing this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hanging Flower Baskets - Council member Dyvik asked if the flower baskets were in process. Public Works Director Diercks replied that he has not heard back from the vendor yet. Later under Other Business, Diercks advised that he had learned the hanging baskets will be delivered on May 27, 2021.

Fire Department Update - Mayor Miner gave an overview of his presentation the previous evening at a weekly Fire Department meeting where he provided the firefighters an update on the discussions with Orono. He reported that it went well and the Fire Department offered a lot of good comments and feedback. He summarized that his understanding of their feedback was that the firefighters would rather the City gets this worked out sooner rather than later because this is creating a lot of stress for them. Fire Chief Van Eyll discussed some of the issues that are important to the firefighters such as their pension and the 'handshake agreement' with the Fire Relief Association Board. He suggested that a better timeline of how things have transpired over the last five years should be put together and communicated with the firefighters to help them understand what has happened thus far, because he doesn't think many of them are aware of the full background leading up to-date.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator